

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SAJ-01

SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05

ACDA-05 BIB-01 /084 W

----- 045886

R 041106Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1000

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY LISBON

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 1596

GENEVA FOR CSCE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, DA

SUBJECT: TOUR D'HORIZON WITH FORMER PRIME MINISTER HARTLING

1. POUL HARTLING, THE FORMER PRIME MINISTER OF DENMARK,
LUNCHEDED WITH ME ALONE YESTERDAY, JUNE 4, AND GAVE ME HIS
VIEWS ON A NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC ISSUES. HE
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HAS MAINTAINED A VERY LOW PROFILE SINCE HE RESIGNED IN

JANUARY OF THIS YEAR AND THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO TALK TOGETHER AT LEISURE. HE STILL CONTROLS DENMARK'S SECOND LARGEST VOTING BLOC IN THE FOLKETING.

2. JUST BACK FROM MAKING A NUMBER OF SPEECHES IN ENGLAND IN BEHALF OF THE U.K.'S CONTINUED MEMBERSHIP IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, HE TOLD ME THAT HE FELT REASONABLY SURE THAT SHE WOULD REMAIN IN THE COMMUNITY AND THAT A CONSEQUENT REFERENDUM IN DENMARK WILL BE AVOIDED.

3. HE SAID HE HAS FOLLOWED THE RECENT NATO MEETING IN BRUSSELS CLOSELY AND HAS REAL DOUBTS AS TO PORTUGAL'S FITNESS FOR CONTINUED MEMBERSHIP IN VIEW OF THE PRESENCE OF COMMUNIST MINISTERS IN THE CABINET AND OF THE STRONG LEFT-LEANING BIAS OF THE ARMY OFFICERS WHO CONTROL THE GOVERNMENT.

4. HE DID NOT THINK THAT THE RUSSIANS WILL MAKE SUFFICIENT CONCESSIONS IN THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY TO JUSTIFY A SUMMIT CONFERENCE IN HELSINKI THE END OF JULY.

5. ASKED HIS VIEWS ON THE CURRENT FIGHTER PLANE CONTROVERSY, HE REPLIED THAT THERE IS NO DOUBT IN HIS MIND THAT THE AMERICAN F-16 IS THE BEST BUY FOR HIS COUNTRY AND THAT THE RATHER FRANTIC EFFORTS OF FRANCE AND SWEDEN TO SELL THEIR VERSIONS WILL GET NO PLACE.

6. TURNING TO THE DOMESTIC FRONT HE TOLD ME THAT HE DEPLORED THE RECENT STATEMENT OF PRIME MINISTER JORGENSEN CONCERNING VIETNAM AND HEARTILY APPROVED OF MY GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO PROTEST IT. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT HE THOUGHT THE UNWISE STATEMENT WAS DUE MORE TO JORGENSEN'S INEXPERIENCE IN DIPLOMACY THAN TO ANY DESIRE TO IRRITATE THE UNITED STATES.

7. HE WAS PLEASED WITH THE BRUSSELS MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT FORD AND PRIME MINISTER JORGENSEN AS IT RESTORED DENMARK'S GOOD RELATIONS WITH MY COUNTRY AND MORE IMPORTANT PUT JORGENSEN ON RECORD AS FAVORING THEM.

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8. ASKED ABOUT THE CONTINUING STRENGTH OF GLISTRUP'S PROGRESS PARTY, WHICH IS NOW THE THIRD LARGEST IN THE FOLKETING, AND THE DECLINE OF THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY, HARTLING SAID THAT THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT GLISTRUP IS TAKING VOTERS AWAY FROM THE CONSERVATIVES AND WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE TO DO SO. HE THEN LAUNCHED INTO A STRONG ATTACK ON GLISTRUP WHOM HE CONSIDERS THOROUGHLY DISHONEST AND BAD FOR THE COUNTRY. (IT WAS HARTLING'S REFUSAL TO GIVE GLISTRUP A CABINET POST WHICH

LED TO HARTLING'S FINAL FALL AS PRIME MINISTER.)

9. HARTLING SAID HE FEELS SURE OF RETURNING TO POWER NEXT YEAR BOTH BECASUE OF JORGENSEN'S INEXPERIENCE IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND HIS INABILITY TO PLEASE HIS PARTY'S LEFT WING.

10. HARTLING EXPRESSED HIMSELF STRONGLY ON THE HIGHLY CONTROVERSIAL MOVING PICTURE OF THE LIFE OF CHRIST WHICH IS BEING FINANCED TO THE TUNE OF \$180,000 BY THE PRESENT DANISH GOVERNMENT. HE THINKS THAT THE MOVIE, WHICH PRESUMES TO RECORD JESUS AS AN ORDINARY MAN WITH ORDINARY SEXUAL EXPERICNES, IS IN THE WORST POSSIBLE TASTE AND WILL CERTAINLY DAMAGE DENMARK'S CULTURAL IMAGE WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN TARNISHED BY HER LIBERAL ATTITUDE TOWARDS PORNOGRAPHY.
CROWE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL LEADERS, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975COPENH01596
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750195-0460
From: COPENHAGEN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750679/aaaacttj.tel
Line Count: 130
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 APR 2003 by ElyME>; RELEASED <14 APR 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <29 SEP 2003 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TOUR D'HORIZON WITH FORMER PRIME MINISTER HARTLING
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, DA, (HARTLING, POUL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006